

News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICC approves highway-railroad improvements in East St. Louis

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved plans for a rail improvement project involving the installation of new automatic flashing light signals and gates, crossing surface and approach grade reconstruction and advanced warning signs and pavement markings at the St. Louis Ave. grade crossing of Norfolk Southern Railway's track in East St. Louis, St. Clair County.

The estimated cost for the safety improvements is \$144,719. The GCPF will be used to pay 95 percent of the installation costs, not to exceed \$137,483. The Norfolk Southern Railway Company will pay the remaining installation costs, as well as all future operating and maintenance costs. The railroad will also pay for the crossing surface reconstruction and all future maintenance costs. The City of East St. Louis will pay the cost to reconstruct the highway approaches and well as the cost of installing new advanced signage and pavement markings, estimated at \$20,000. The project must be completed by August 30, 2007.

ABOUT THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)

Project selection and management of GCPF highway-rail safety projects include safety improvements such as the installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements and the construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements.

The General Assembly appropriates \$27 million annually for GCPF projects.

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